

## **STATUS OF CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A procurement process for reconciling actual performance data with estimated data within said procurement process for a complex project ordered by a buyer and performed by a seller, the method comprising:

obtaining and storing in the procurement process the estimated data from any source relating to the complex project;

receiving and storing in the procurement process the actual performance data from the seller via a communication network;

using electronic comparison circuitry in the procurement process to compare the actual performance data to the estimated data to determine any discrepancy between the actual performance data and the estimated data; and

sending, in the procurement process, an electronic notification of any such discrepancy to at least one of the buyer and the seller, and

wherein notification of any such discrepancy is provided to the seller thereafter  
~~causing the process to electronically notify the seller of any such discrepancy,~~ whereby the seller can reconcile or ~~otherwise~~ account to the buyer for any such discrepancy.

2. (Currently Amended) A procurement process for reconciling as described in claim 1, wherein the actual performance data comprises an actual cost, in whole or in part, of either goods or services, or goods and services provided by the seller in performance of the complex project.

3. (Currently Amended) A procurement process for reconciling as described in claim 1, wherein the actual performance data comprises an actual accounting, in whole or in part, of

either goods or services, or goods and services provided by the seller in performance of the complex project.

4. (Currently Amended) A procurement process for reconciling as described in claim 1, wherein the actual performance data comprises at least one measurement of at least one parameter defining at least one aspect of the complex project.

5-14. (Canceled).

15. (Currently Amended) A procurement process for reconciling as described in claim 1, wherein the procurement process generates at least one request for either at least one good or at least one service, or at least one good and at least one service to be provided by the seller to the buyer for the complex project, wherein the complex project is defined in terms of at least one parameter, and wherein the procurement process converts the at least one parameter into the at least one request, and wherein the procurement process system communicates the at least one request to the seller.

16-21. (Canceled).

22. (Currently Amended) A procurement system for reconciling actual performance data compiled for a complex project by a seller with estimated data for the project, the complex project ordered by a buyer and performed by the seller, the procurement system comprising:

a first interface for interacting with at least one buyer;

a second interface for interacting with at least one seller;

a memory for storing the estimated data and the actual performance data, wherein the

actual performance data is received from the seller via the second interface; and

a processor controlling the memory, the first interface and the second interface, wherein the processor electronically compares the actual performance data to the estimated data to determine any discrepancy between the actual performance data and the estimated data and sends an electronic notification of any such discrepancy to at least one of the buyer and the seller, and wherein notification of any such discrepancy is provided to the seller, whereby the seller can reconcile or account to the buyer for any such discrepancy. wherein ~~the processor notifies the buyer and/or the seller via the first interface of any discrepancy.~~

23. (Currently Amended) A procurement system for reconciling as described in claim 22, wherein the actual performance data comprises an actual cost , in whole or in part, of either goods or services, or goods and services provided by the seller in performance of the complex project.

24. (Currently Amended) A procurement system for reconciling as described in claim 22, wherein the actual performance data comprises an actual quantity, in whole or in part, of either goods or services, or goods and services provided by the seller in performance of the complex project.

25. (Currently Amended) A procurement system for reconciling as described in claim 22, wherein the actual performance data comprises at least one measurement of at least one parameter defining at least one aspect of the complex project.

26-33. (Canceled).

34. (Currently Amended) A procurement system for reconciling as described in claim 22, wherein the system further comprises a system for implementing a process to generate at least one request for either at least one good or at least one service, or at least one good and at least one service to be provided by the seller to the buyer for the complex project, wherein the project is defined in terms of at least one parameter, and wherein the procurement system converts the at least one parameter into the at least one request, and wherein the procurement system communicates the at least one request to the seller.

35-50. (Canceled).

51. (Currently Amended) A procurement process in a system for comparing at least one first response to at least one second response, the at least one first response and at least one second response being responsive to at least one request by a buyer for either at least one good or at least one service, or at least one good and at least one service for a complex project, the procurement process comprising:

receiving the at least one first response in the system via a communication network;

receiving the at least one second response in the system via the communication network;

electronically comparing in the system the at least one first response to the at least one second response; and

~~presenting the electronic comparison to the buyer and/or the seller through an interface with a buyer system via the communication network,~~ sending an electronic notification of any discrepancy between the at least one first response and the at least one second response to at least one of the buyer and the seller wherein notification of any such discrepancy is provided

to the seller, whereby the seller can reconcile or ~~otherwise~~ account to the buyer based upon the electronic comparison.

52-53. (Canceled)

54. (Currently Amended) A procurement process in a system for comparing as described in claim 51, wherein the first response is provided by a first seller through an interface with a first seller system via the communication network, and the at least one second response is provided by at least one second seller through an interface with at least one second seller system via the communication network.

55-63. (Canceled).

64. (Currently Amended) A procurement system for comparing an at least one first response to at least one second response, the at least one first response and at least one second response being responsive to at least one request by a buyer for either at least one good or at least one service, or at least one good and at least one service for a complex project, the system comprising:

- a buyer interface;
- a seller interface for receiving the at least one first response and the at least one second response from a seller;
- a memory for storing the at least one first response and the at least one second response; and
- a processor connected to a buyer interface, a seller interface, and the memory, wherein the processor electronically compares the at least one first response to the at least one second

response, and wherein the processor presents the comparison to the buyer via the buyer interface.

65-130. (Canceled).